

AGENDA ITEM III D

LOUISIANA TECHNICAL COLLEGE-LAFAYETTE

PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE IN AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Louisiana Technical College Lafayette campus (LTC-Laf) currently offers a Technical Diploma (TD) in Automotive Technology (AT).

1. Description

The sixty hours of technical courses which prepare students for technical competencies assessed in the certification test given by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) are currently offered at LTC-Laf as a TD; therefore, no new technical courses will be required. The curriculum is structured to align courses of instructions with specific skill sets associated with technical proficiency levels identified by ASE. The College proposes to offer fifteen hours of transferable general education courses via a Memorandum of Understanding with South Louisiana Community College or by qualified District IV instructors to complete the seventy-five hours required for the degree. Some of these courses may be offered through compressed video, for which quality control measures have recently been developed.

Training provided in technical courses enables graduates to perform the activities associated with all areas of auto repair, as indicated in the list which follows, as well as six semesters (twenty-four credit hours) of Automotive Internships.

- Engine
- Automatic Transmission & Transaxle
- Manual Drive Train
- Steering & Suspension
- Brakes
- Electrical
- Heating & Air conditioning
- Engine Performance

2. Need

A.A.S. programs in Automotive Technology are currently offered at Delgado Community College in New Orleans and at LTC-Baton Rouge campus. The service area for LTC-Lafayette spans a large geographic area with many constituents requesting trained employees. The State Department of Labor estimates that growth plus replacement needs for this field in the 4th

Regional Labor Market will average ninety openings per year. While some of the rural vehicle dealers need only diploma graduates with automotive certifications, industry representatives in urban areas have also expressed the need for associate-degreed service personnel.

An Auto Tech Advisory Committee, comprising representatives from national and local industry, meets twice each year to provide input and assistance. The institution indicates that it has been advised that individuals with automotive certifications and associate degrees will begin employment at above entry-level wages and that associate-level training programs are generally the ones with which national industries affiliate in other areas of the country.

3. Students

LTC-Laf indicates that primary source of students for the AAS program will be prior diploma graduates and current students enrolled in the diploma program. The proposed program may also attract those currently employed in the field who have not considered a technical college but who may be motivated to attend because obtaining industry certifications along with an associate degree will enhance their opportunities with industry employers, the largest of which is automotive dealers. Students taking introductory automotive courses in high school who decide to continue in that field in post secondary education could also be recruited into the program.

Enrollment in the existing automotive technology program is shown below.

CURRENT TD PROGRAM ENROLLMENT AND GRADUATES

TD Program	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Enrolled*	30	33	43	39	28
Graduates	15	16	15	17	7
Related Placements	10	7	14	12	

*All program levels

LTC-Laf projects enrollment as shown in the table which follows. Projections were derived by calculating 80% of the headcount enrollment to determine the number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) students, then utilizing 75% of FTE count for persistence rate. The graduation rate is based upon past experience with the TD program as well as other associate degree programs offered at the institution. Projected graduation rate is calculated as 45% of the students enrolled in all AT programs.

PROJECTED AAS ENROLLMENT & GRADUATES

	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
New students	20	20	20	20
Continuing students	25	25	25	25
Total headcount	45	45	45	45
Graduates	17	17	17	17

4. Faculty

One full-time faculty teaches the AT courses; a laboratory assistant conducts recruiting activities for the automotive program and works with auto dealers in assigning student internships and determining industry need. The laboratory assistant is currently pursuing an associate degree to qualify as a full-time instructor. Both of these individuals are Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certified and technical college program National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) certified. Faculty are required to earn continuing education units as prescribed by NATEF and ASE to maintain industry certification.

The student:faculty ratio based on full-time equivalent students is 20:1. Other faculty at LTC-Laf teach *Introduction to Computers, Orientation* and *Job Seeking Skills*. General education courses are offered by SACS-CoC credentialed faculty. The institution does not indicate a need for additional faculty in the near future.

5. Library and Other Resources

Access to an electronic library through LOUIS, the Louisiana Library Network is available at LTC-Laf. Additionally, resources and supplemental materials of the Lafayette Parish library system, which includes a main facility and nine branches, are available for student use. A Memorandum of Understanding with South Louisiana Community College, located adjacent to LTC-Laf, indicates that its library facilities may be utilized by LTC-Laf students.

6. Facilities

Current Automotive Technology classroom, computer room, office and laboratory/shop facilities are adequate for use by the program. Related and general education courses are offered in classrooms available at the LTC-Lafayette campus or at SLCC.

7. Administration

Automotive programs are offered in the Business and Services Department. Two instructors report to the Department Coordinator, who reports to the Assistant Campus Dean of Instruction. The LTC-Laf Campus Dean guides all campus activities and offerings. Implementation of the associate degree program will not affect the present administrative structure of the institution.

8. Accreditation

The Automotive Technology program at the LTC Lafayette campus has achieved accreditation by NATEF.

9. Costs

The institution indicates that it does not expect additional expenditures in order to offer the proposed program.

STAFF ANALYSIS

All technical courses required for the Associate of Applied Science in Automotive Technology are currently available at LTC-Laf. Necessary faculty, facilities and equipment are present. Enrollment and graduation projections may be optimistic, but the next Low Completer Review will assess whether enrollment is adequate for maintenance of programs. The program enjoys industry support.

The staff again notes that LTC-Lafayette proposes to use their own faculty to offer some general education courses. As the campus is proximate to South Louisiana Community College, it is wasteful and unnecessary to use other than SLCC general education courses/faculty to satisfy LTC-Laf student needs for general education. Accordingly, this portion of the proposal should be changed.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for the Associate of Applied Science in Automotive Technology (CIP Code 47.0604) at Louisiana Technical College-Lafayette campus, effective immediately. Required general education courses shall be offered by South Louisiana Community College.